



Embassy of the United States of America

Public Affairs Section

For more information please contact: Phone 216-8122, Fax 216-8622
Embassy website: <http://bolivia.usembassy.gov>

23

La Paz, August 4, 2005

Press Release

The United States supports school remodeling in El Alto

The Embassy of the United States, through its Military Group, will start today a program to remodel the Educational Unit of the First Air Brigade of the Bolivian Air Force, which serves 1,400 children and adolescents of school age.

The program, to be inaugurated by U.S. Ambassador to Bolivia David Greenlee and the Commander of the Bolivian Air Force, will require US\$50,000. This amount will be provided by the Southern Command of the United States as part of its Humanitarian Assistance program. The remodeling is to include repairs of several classrooms of the First Air Brigade School in El Alto, one of the largest in that city. The works will also include painting internal and external walls, refurbishing restrooms, and repairing roofs.

More than 1,400 students, children and adolescents coming from all sectors of El Alto and the town of Viacha, attend the school.

The program seeks to improve the quality of teaching in El Alto, thus directly benefiting schoolchildren. This is the first of a series of projects aimed at improving the schools in the region of the altiplano of the department of La Paz. This project is being funded by the Southern Command of the United States, within its program of Humanitarian Assistance.

The U.S. Embassy has a strong commitment to El Alto, and supports not only this kind of projects, in this case involving coordinated actions with the Air Force, but also projects with institutions representing the municipality and civil society.

The Southern Command of the United States and the Military Group will continue supporting the Ministry of National Defense, the Armed Forces, and the Vice Ministry of Civil Defense with humanitarian assistance programs.

Within this framework, from August 9 to 12, a healthcare program will be conducted in El Alto in coordination with the Bolivian Armed Forces and the Air National Guard of the United States. The program will provide eyeglasses to approximately 5,000 people, free of charge. This program is designed to improve the quality of life of low-income people of El Alto.

###